

19. (New) The catheter of Claim 2, wherein said through-holes for draining are side holes.

20. (New) The catheter of Claim 2, wherein said groove is a slit which is not closed even by soft tissue of an intraperitoneal organ.

REMARKS

The claims were amended under Article 34 on 16 August 2001. The claims have been further amended to conform to U.S. practice by changing the multiple-dependent claims to single-dependent claims and adding new claims. As such, no new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE." Additionally, the cross-reference information has been included in the specification. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3-7 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, further comprising a cuff for fixing said catheter to an abdominal portion.

4. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said groove is formed along an entire length of said tip end portion.

5. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein width of said groove is 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm.

6. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said through-holes for draining are side holes.

7. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said groove is a slit which is not closed even by soft tissue of an intraperitoneal organ.

Claims 8-20 have been added.